

The HANGMAN

Special Case
no. 27

Pirates
out of
the
Past



B. F. F.

A STRANGE GHOSTLY FOG HANGS OVER THE OCEAN... BUT NO STRANGER IS IT THAN THE SHIP IT BLANKETS - AN ANCIENT SPANISH GALLEON



AND IN THE CROW'S NEST
LAND! LAND DEAD
AHEAD, CAPTAIN
BALBO!



LAND AT LONG LAST! I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D SEE LAND AGAIN!

SI, CAPTAIN BALBO!
IT MUST BE MONTHS
SINCE WE FIRST
FLOATED INTO
THE FOG!



YES! I WAS ALMOST BEGINNING TO THINK IT WAS
BAD LUCK FOR US TO HAVE PLUNDERED AND
SUNK THAT SHIP CARRYING THE SPANISH
CHURCH'S GOLD!

HA, HA, HA, HA



IS THIS SOME JEST?
AN ANCIENT SHIP
WHOSE CREW
SEEMS MADE UP
OF ANCIENT
PIRATES? AND
YET WHEN THE
PIRATE CAPTAIN
GOES TO HIS
QUARTERS, HE
OPENS HIS LOG
BOOK AND
INSCRIBES IN IT,
SERIOUSLY
ENOUGH

...THE DATE - 1498



MAKE FOR THAT COVE,
MEN!



I, CAPTAIN BALBO
CLAIM THIS LAND!
WE SHALL BUILD OUR
HEADQUARTERS HERE!



AND ON THIS
VERY SPOT SHALL
WE BURY OUR
LOOT!



BUT UNSEEN, THERE IS A SPECTATOR TO THE BIZARRE SCENE ON THE BEACH...

GEE WHIZ... GOLLY, PIRATES! MAYBE THEY'RE MAKIN' A MOVING PICTURE!

A MOVING PICTURE... PERHAPS! AND YET THE CAST OF CHARACTERS SEEM CURIOUSLY SINCERE.

START DIGGING HERE, MATIES!

AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN BALBO!

DEEPER! MUCH DEEPER!

SEEMS LIKE THIS IS DEEP ENOUGH CAPTAIN! WE'RE NOT DIGGING A GRAVE!

(SUDDENLY, THE CAPTAIN'S EYES GLEAM WICKEDLY AND HE DRAWS A PAIR OF ANCIENT PISTOLS...

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE MATES! YOU ARE DIGGING A GRAVE! YOUR GRAVE! HA, HA, HA, HA!

BANG

BANG

THEN IT IS, THE CURIOUS YOUNGSTER REALIZES THIS SCENE IS REAL...

FOOLS! DID YOU THINK I'D ALLOW ANYONE ELSE BUT MYSELF TO KNOW WHERE THIS TREASURE IS HIDDEN

HE... HE KILLED 'EM - THE MURDERER!

I'M GONNA CALL THE COPS!

WHA.. THE
HANGMAN!

WHOA, YOUNG
FELLOW! YOU
SEEM IN A TERRI-
BLE HURRY!



YOU SAW
IT TOO,
HANGMAN?

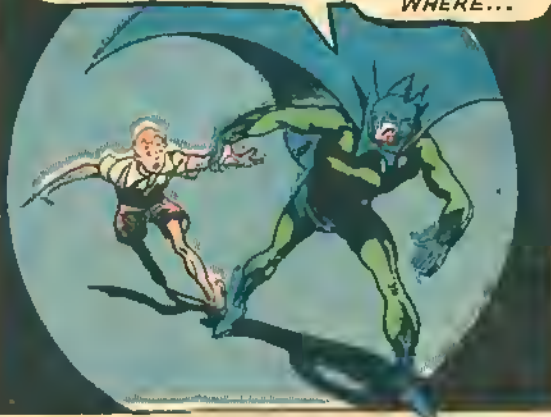
IT WOULDN'T BE
THAT PIRATE SHIP
THAT FRIGHTENED
YOU SO!



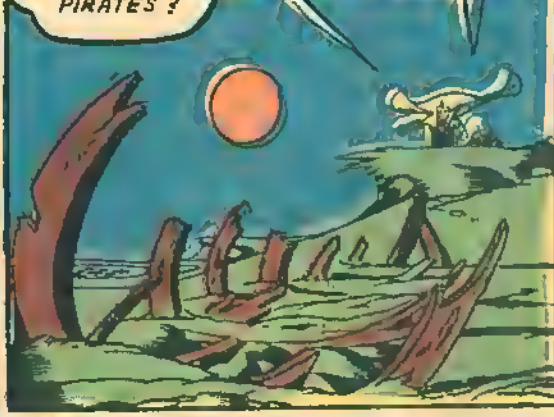
THEN MAYBE YOU
SAW THE PIRATE
CAPTAIN MUR-
DER TWO
OF HIS MEH
AN' BURY
'EM BACK
THERE WITH
THE TREAS-
URE...



MURDER... BURIED TREASURE... SOUNDS
LIKE SOMETHING ONLY A KID WOULD DREAM
UP- IF I HADN'T SEEN THAT CRAZY SHIP MY-
SELF... C'MON YOUNG FELLOW! SHOW ME
WHERE...

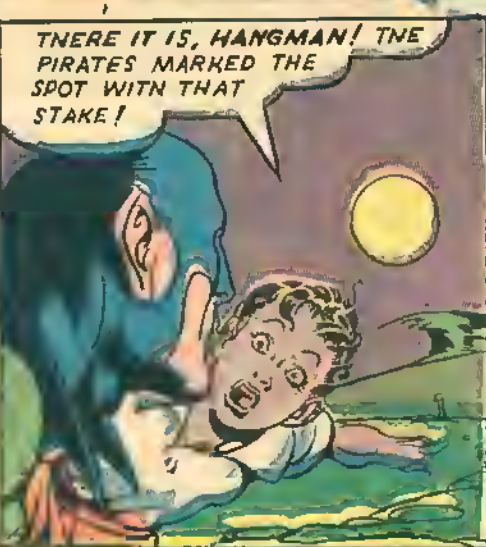


I LINED UP THE PIRATE
SHIP WITH THIS ROTTED
HULK. IS THIS WHERE
YOU SAW THE
PIRATES?

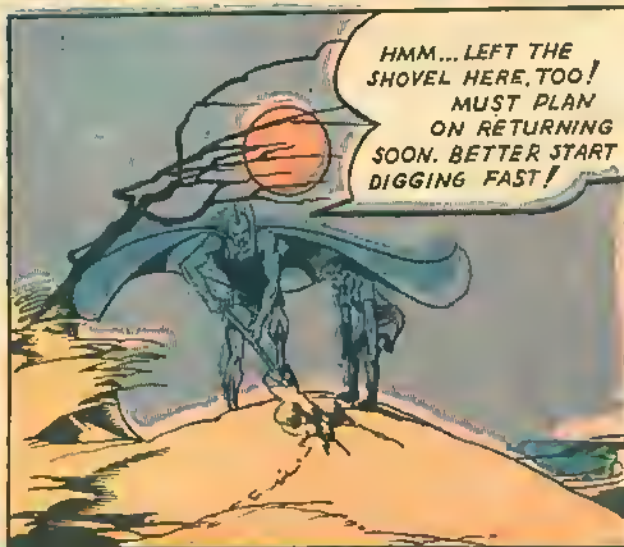


NO! A LITTLE
FURTHER DOWN
THE BEACH!

THERE IT IS, HANGMAN! THE
PIRATES MARKED THE
SPOT WITH THAT
STAKE!



HMM... LEFT THE
SHOVEL HERE, TOO!
MUST PLAN
ON RETURNING
SOON. BETTER START
DIGGING FAST!

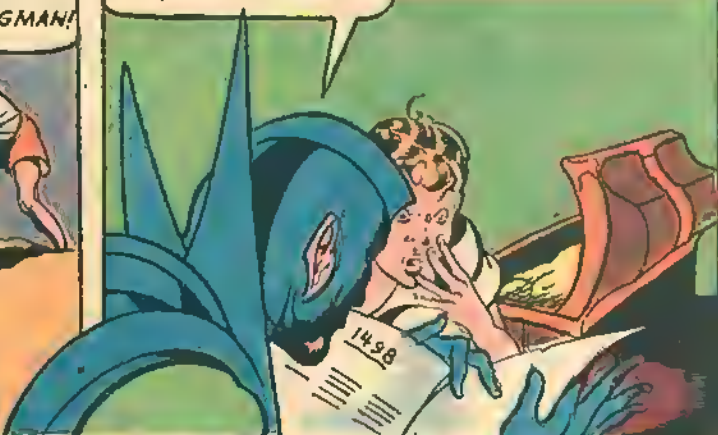


YOU WERE RIGHT...
AND IT SOUNDS AS
THOUGH THIS TRUNK
REALLY CONTAINS
COINS OF SOME
KIND! BY THE WAY,
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME, SON?

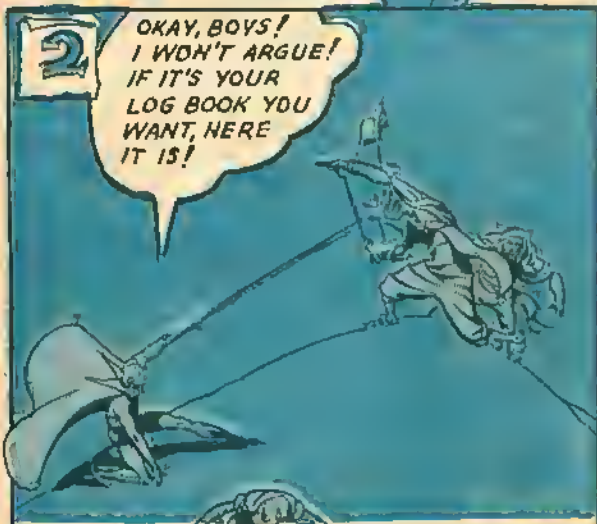
JOEY! BOY, I NEVER
DREAMED
I'D BE HELPIN'
YOU, HANGMAN!



HOLY COW! SPANISH DOUBLOONS, AT LEAST
500 YEARS OLD! AND LOOK AT THE DATE ON
THIS LOG BOOK!



OH! ON! WE'VE
GOT COMPANY!
AND NOT VERY
PLEASANT
COMPANY
BY THE
LOOKS
OF THEM!



OKAY, BOYS!
I WON'T ARGUE!
IF IT'S YOUR
LOG BOOK YOU
WANT, HERE
IT IS!



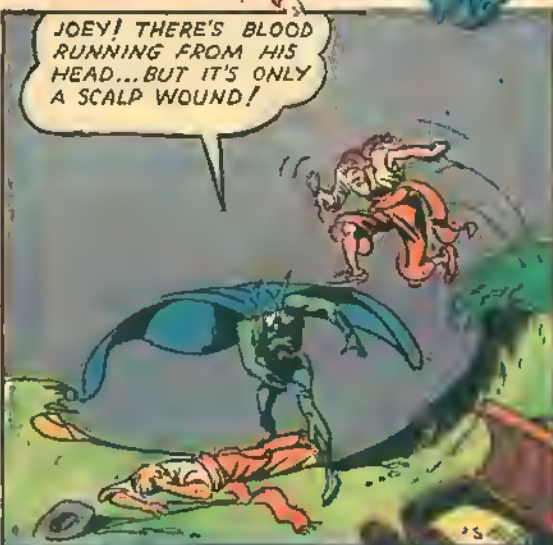
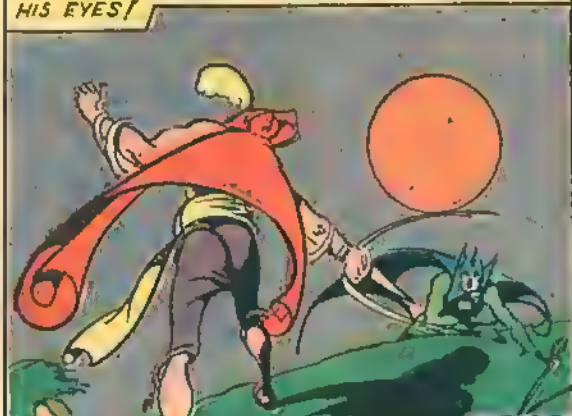
I, CAPTAIN
BALBO, SHALL
KILL YOU!

SO YOU
SPEAK
ENGLISH!
THANKS
FOR THE
INTRODUC-
TION!

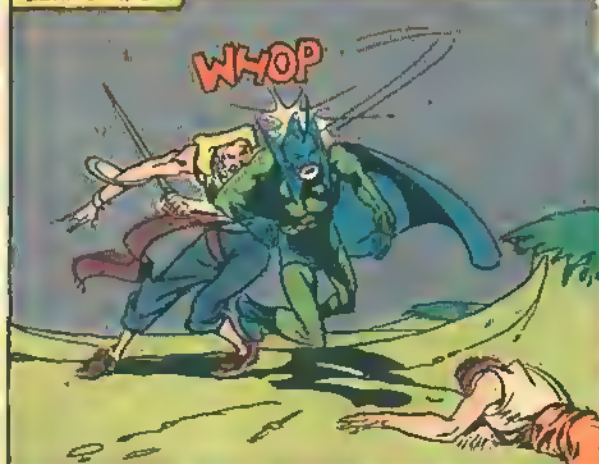


HANGMAN! HANGMAN!
HELP!

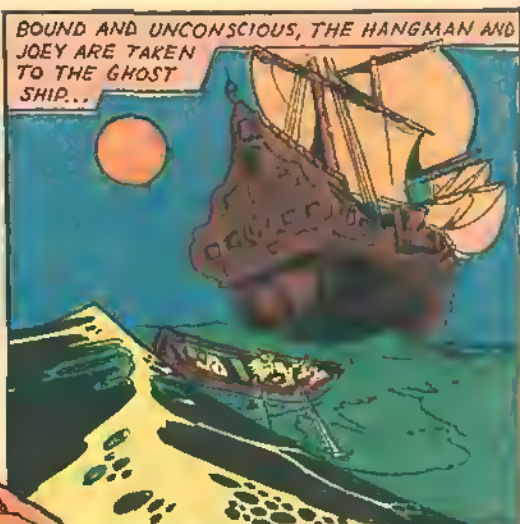
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE HANGMAN HIMSELF, IS IN DEADLY PERIL AS THE PIRATE CAPTAIN DEXTEROUSLY DISARMS HIM, AND ADVANCES WITH THE WICKED LOOK OF MURDER GLEAMING IN HIS EYES!



BUT THEN, ANOTHER PIRATE SKULKS UP FROM BEHIND AND...



BOUND AND UNCONSCIOUS, THE HANGMAN AND JOEY ARE TAKEN TO THE GHOST SHIP...



WHO ARE YOU, CAPTAIN BALBOP? WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS? WHAT'S YOUR RACKET?

RACKET! RACKET! YOU SPEAK A STRANGE ENGLISH TONGUE! BUT IT MATTERS NOT! YOU TWO SHALL FETCH A HANDSOME RANSOM!



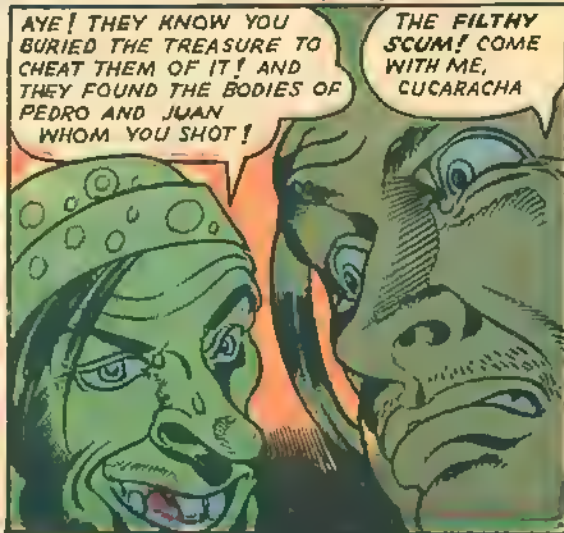
CAPTAIN BALBO! COME QUICK! I OVERHEARD THE MEN TALKING OF MUTINY!

WHAT!



AYE! THEY KNOW YOU BURIED THE TREASURE TO CHEAT THEM OF IT! AND THEY FOUND THE BODIES OF PEDRO AND JUAN WHOM YOU SHOT!

THE FILTHY SCUM! COME WITH ME, CUCARACHA

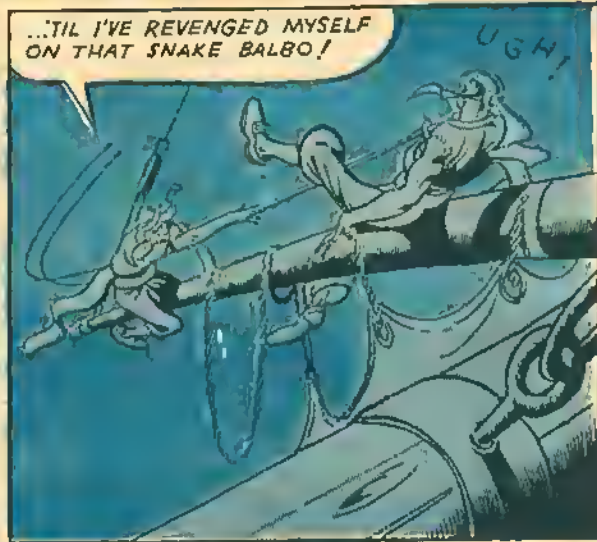
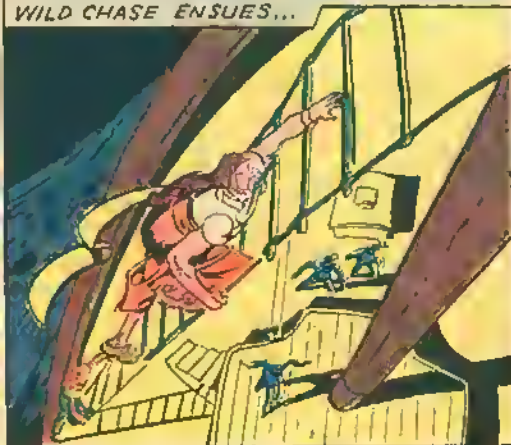


LISTEN TO ME, YOU SWINE 'Twill DO YOU NO GOOD TO PLOT AGAINST ME! I HAVE SPIES AMONG YOU! I KNOW YOUR EVERY MOVE!





SQUEALING, WITH TERROR, THE COCKROACH FRANTICALLY TRIES TO ELUDE HIS BLOOD-THIRSTY VENGEFUL PURSUERS--AND A WILD CHASE ENSUES...



BUT THE COCKROACH
LOSES HIS BALANCE AND
TOPPLES OFF HIS PERCH

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STILL ALIVE AND
KICKING, EH!
FEED 'IM TO THE
SHARKS, MEN!

3

AS FOR YOU, CAPTAIN BALBO,
WE'RE NOT THROUGH WITH
YOU YET! WE WANT OUR
SHARE OF THAT LOOT—AND
WE WANT IT NOW!

CERTAINLY, YOU
GET YOUR SHARES!
YOU DON'T THINK
I'D CHEAT YOU,
DO YOU?

NEVER
MIND THE
TALK! JUST
DIVIDE
THE
SPOILS!

JUST A MINUTE, ALL OF YOU! I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE—OR HOW YOU GOT HERE! BUT
YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME! IT'S POINTLESS
TO SQUABBLE AMONG YOURSELVES ABOUT
YOUR BLOODY SPOILS!

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THEN YOU ALL
SHOULD HAVE DIED MORE THAN 4
CENTURIES AGO! THIS IS THE YEAR 1943!
THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS GIVE

YOURSELVES UP TO
THE PROPER
AUTHORITIES!

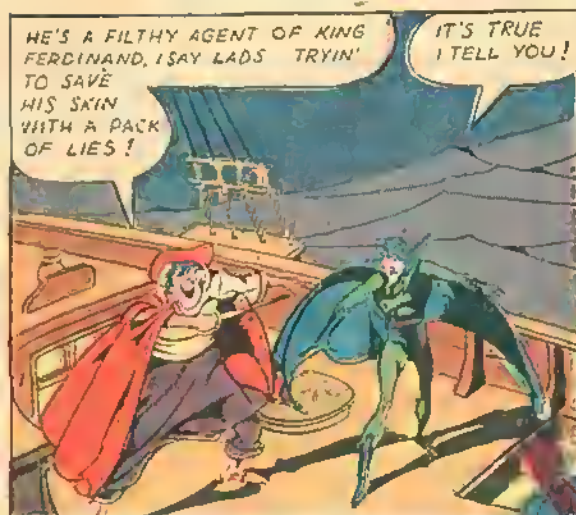
HE'S A FILTHY AGENT OF KING
FERDINAND, I SAY LADS TRYIN'
TO SAVE
HIS SKIN
WITH A PACK
OF LIES!

IT'S TRUE
I TELL YOU!

STRING 'IM
FROM THE
YARDARM!

CUT HIS
GIZZARD
OUT!

IT'S A TRICK TO
ROB US OF
OUR LOOT!



STAND BACK, LADS!
I GET FIRST CRACK
AT HIM!

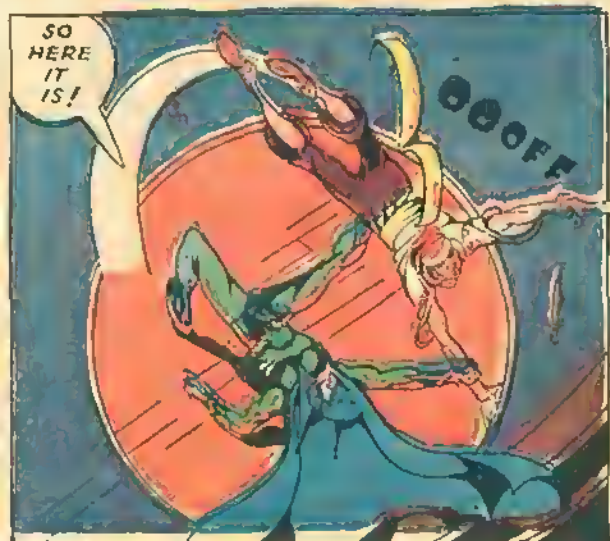
I'LL SEND YOU
BACK TO HIS ROYAL
MAJESTY WITHOUT
YER FILTHY HEART!

OKAY! YOU'RE
ASKING FOR
THIS!

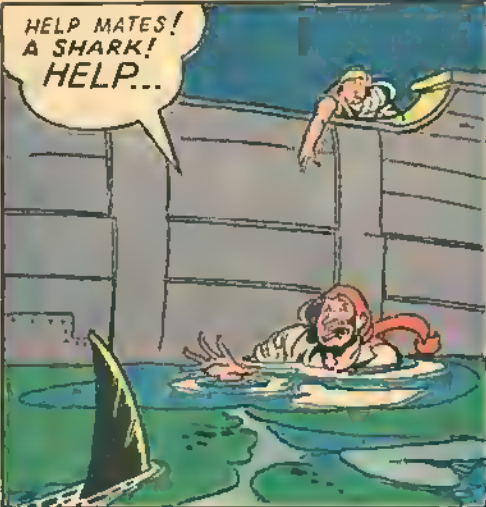


SO
HERE
IT
IS!

OOOFF



HELP MATES!
A SHARK!
HELP...



YEEEOOWW....
HE'S GOT ME BY
THE LEG!....



AT 'IM LADS! WE'LL
FINISH 'IM OFF
QUICK!

WOW...LOOK'S LIKE
MY GOOSE IS COOKED!
I CAN'T FIGHT THE
WHOLE CREW!
UNARMED!



JUST AS THINGS SEEM HOPELESS FOR THE
HANGMAN, FATE COMES TO HIS AID IN THE
SHAPE OF AN OCTOPUS, DREAD DENIZEN OF
THE DEEP, ATTRACTED BY THE SMELL OF
BLOOD...



AND THE HANGMAN, TRUE TO HIS
CODE OF HONOR, GOES TO THE AID
OF HIS HELPLESS ENEMIES...



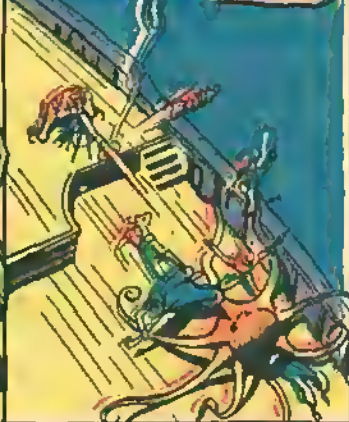
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET RID OF THAT ACCURSED KING'S AGENT... AND SOME OF THOSE MUTINOUS SWINE, TOO!



WHAT IN... THE RAT'S TURNING THE CANNON ON HIS OWN MEN!



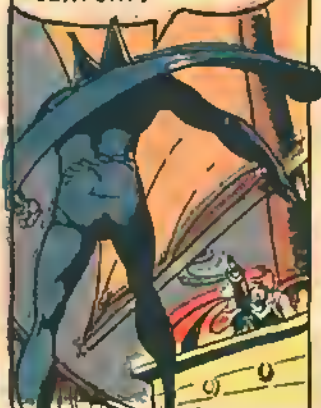
AN ANCIENT BUT MURDEROUS WEAPON, CUTS A WIDE SWATH OF DEATH IN THE RANKS.



AND AT THAT MOMENT...



YOU ESCAPED THE HANGMAN IN YOUR TIME CAPT. BALBO! BUT I'LL BE YOUR HANGMAN IN THIS CENTURY!



YOU'LL BE A DEAD HANGMAN AS SOON AS I PULL THIS...

UGH



I TOLD YE THE COCKROACH'D GET HIS REVENGE CAPTAIN BALBO!



THEY'RE ALL DEAD... EVERY LAST ONE OF THE CREW!

HANGMAN! LOOK, I FOUND THE LOGBOOK!



HMM... IT'S BALBO'S LOG BOOK ALL RIGHT! WITH ALL HIS CRIMES RECORDED HERE! CRIMES COMMITTED IN THE 15TH CENTURY!



DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S TRUE HANGMAN?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, JOEY. IT ALL SOUNDS SO FANTASTIC, AND YET....JOEY! WATCH OUT! THAT MAST! IT'S TOPPLING OUR WAY!

JUMP! THE WHOLE SHIP IS CRACKING UP. IT'LL SINK ANY MINUTE!

THAT'S FUNNY, ONE MINUTE IT SEEMED SOLID ENOUGH, AND THE NEXT, IT WENT COMPLETELY TO PIECES!

HOW'RE WE GONNA GET BACK TO SHORE...I CAN'T SWIM THAT FAR!

FORTUNATELY JOEY'S QUESTION IS ANSWERED BY A COAST GUARD CUTTER WHICH COMES STEAMING UP

I DON'T GET IT. WE JUST PICKED YOU UP -AND NOW YOU WANT TO GO DOWN IN A DIVING HELMET? WHY?

TO BRING YOU PROOF OF A STORY I HARDLY BELIEVE MYSELF! PROOF THAT WENT DOWN WITH THAT SHIP!

GREAT SCOT! THIS IS THE SPOT IT SANK. I'M POSITIVE! AND YET...

THE SHIP AND THE CREW ARE ALL ROTTED AWAY—JUST AS THOUGH THEY'D BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES...

WELL, HANGMAN, ARE YOU READY TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT! DID YOU GET THE PROOF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

YES, CAPTAIN, I CONVINCED MYSELF! AS FOR THE STORY, IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD AS AN OFFICIAL REPORT—SO PERHAPS IT HAD BEST BE LEFT UNTOLD!